

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41, 43, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64-66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78-83, 85-87, 89 and 91-98 were previously cancelled. Claim 42 is currently amended. Claims 45-47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 67, 70, 72, 74, 77, 84, 88 and 90 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A longitudinal former of a web-processing machine comprising:

a longitudinal web former support body;

first and second ~~angularly converging~~ leg areas of said web former support body, said first and second ~~converging~~ leg areas each having a first and second rigid, air permeable leg area support surface[[s]] and being adapted to both concurrently engage act with a web being to be longitudinally folded, said first and second leg areas of said former support body converging with respect to each other at an acute angle;

a nose section of said support body, said nose section of said support body being and located at a convergence of said first and second converging leg areas of said support body, said nose section of said support body having a rigid, air permeable nose support surface adapted to engage the web being longitudinally folded by said longitudinal web formed support body;

a first surface layer of a micro-porous air permeable material on said support surfaces of each of said first and second converging leg areas of said web former support body, said first surface layer having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous, air permeable material for the exit of a fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter

of less than 500 μm , said first surface layer having a first fluid permeability per unit of area; and
a second surface layer of a micro-porous, air permeable material on said nose
support surface of said nose section of said web former support body, said second surface
layer having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous material for the
exit of fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500 μm , said second surface
layer having a second fluid permeability per unit of area, said second fluid permeability being
greater than said first fluid permeability.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said pores have a mean
diameter of 5 to 50 μm .

46. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable
material is an open-pored sinter material.

47. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable
material is an open-pored sinter metal.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said former support body is load

bearing and encloses a hollow space, said first and second layers being supported by said support body.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said a support body connected with said first and second surface layers has a plurality of openings adapted to supply fluid to said first and second surface layers.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 51 wherein said first and second surface layers have a thickness between 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a plurality of passages.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a wall supporting said first and second surface layers, said wall having a wall thickness of greater than 3 mm.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body is a porous material having an air permeability greater than said micro-porous, air permeable material.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body includes a flat material including said hollow space.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein in each of said first and second angularly converging leg areas, said support body is a tube provided with passages.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings allow passage of 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 1 bar.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 4 bar.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 further including a feed line adapted to feed fluid to said former support body, said feed line having an interior area of less than 100 mm².

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings are formed in an insert which is releasably secured to said support body of said former.

78-83. (Cancelled)

84. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 further including a first hollow chamber adapted to supply said first and second leg areas of said support body with fluid and a second hollow chamber adapted to supply said nose section of said support body with fluid.

85-87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 84 wherein a pressure in said first hollow chamber is different from a pressure in said second hollow chamber.

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein an air exit rate in each of said first and second leg areas is between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters per m^2 and an air exit rate in said nose section is between 7 and 20 standard cubic meters per m^2 and further wherein said nose section air exit rate is greater than each said first and second leg area air exit rate.

91-98. (Cancelled)